AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for connecting and anchoring tarpaulins, comprising:

a polymer plastic elongate body having a first end, a second end, a first side, a second side, and a longitudinal axis;

an integrally formed first connector extending parallel to the longitudinal axis for the entire length of the elongate body from the first end to the second end, the first connector having an opening facing the first side, the first connector being adapted to receive and retain a first bulbous edge of a first tarpaulin;

an integrally formed second connector extending parallel to the longitudinal axis for the entire length of the elongate body from the first end to the second end, the second connector having an opening facing the second side, the second connector being adapted to receive and retain a second bulbous edge of a second tarpaulin, the second connector being in back to back relation with the first connector defining a vertical plane;

an integrally formed first anchoring wing underlying the first connector of the elongate body and extending from the first end to the second end, wherein the first anchoring wing has a first side and a second side, the first side of the first anchoring wing protruding past the first side of the elongate body to expose openings through the first anchoring wing adapted to receive fasteners whereby the elongate body [[is]] can be anchored to scaffolding, ~~along~~ the second side of the first anchoring wing ~~an under-surface of the first anchoring wing~~ extending under the first connector of the elongate body, integrally adding to a thickness of an adjacent portion of the first connector, and merging into the vertical plane; and

an integrally formed second anchoring wing underlying the second connector of the elongate body and extending from the first end to the second end, wherein the second anchoring wing has a first side and a second side, the first side of the second anchoring wing protruding past the second side of the elongate body to expose openings through the second anchoring wing adapted to receive fasteners whereby the elongate body [[is]] can be anchored to scaffolding, ~~along~~ the second side of the second anchoring wing ~~an under-surface of the second anchoring wing~~ extending under the second connector of the elongate body, integrally adding to a thickness of an adjacent portion of the second connector, and merging into the vertical plane.

2. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first anchoring wing and the second anchoring wing are angled outwardly and downwardly from the elongate body to define a concave underlying engagement surface.

3. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first anchoring wing and the second anchoring wing are made of a thicker polymer plastic than the first connector and the second connector.

4. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first connector is in the form of a "C" channel and the second connector is in the form of a "C" channel.

5. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein a reinforcing ridge is positioned along a longitudinal edge of both the first anchoring wing and the second anchoring wing.

6. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 5, wherein the "C" channel of the first connector and the second connector both have a chamfer at their remote ends.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for connecting and anchoring tarpaulins, comprising:

a polymer plastic elongate body having a first end, a second end, a first side, a second side, and a longitudinal axis;

an integrally formed first "C" channel connector extending parallel to the longitudinal axis for the entire length of the elongate body from the first end to the second end, the first "C" channel connector having a slotted opening facing the first side, the first "C" channel being adapted to receive and retain a first bulbous edge of a first tarpaulin;

an integrally formed second "C" channel connector extending parallel to the longitudinal axis for the entire length of the elongate body from the first end to the second end, the second "C" channel connector having a slotted opening facing the second side, the second "C" channel being adapted to receive and retain a second bulbous edge of a second tarpaulin, the second "C" channel connector being in back to back relation with the first "C" channel connector defining a vertical plane;

an integrally formed first anchoring wing underlying the first "C" channel connector of the elongate body and extending from the first end to the second end, wherein the first anchoring wing has a first side and a second side, the first side of the first anchoring wing protruding past the first side of the elongate body to expose openings in the second anchoring wing adapted to receive fasteners whereby the elongate body [[is]] can be anchored to scaffolding, ~~along~~ the second side of the first anchoring wing ~~an under-surface of the first anchoring wing~~ extending under the first "C" channel connector of the elongate body, integrally adding to a thickness of an adjacent portion of the first "C" channel connector, and merging into the vertical plane;

an integrally formed second anchoring wing underlying the second "C" channel connector of the elongate body and extending from the first end to the second end, wherein the second anchoring wing has a first side and a second side, the first side of the second anchoring wing protruding past the second side of the elongate body to expose openings through the second anchoring wing adapted to receive fasteners whereby the elongate body [[is]] can be anchored to scaffolding, ~~along~~ the second side of the second anchoring wing ~~an under-surface of the second anchoring wing~~ extending under the second connector of the elongate body, integrally adding to a thickness of an adjacent portion of the second "C" channel connector, and merging into the vertical plane;

the first anchoring wing and the second anchoring wing being angled outwardly and downwardly from the elongate body to define a concave engagement surface; and

a reinforcing ridge being positioned along an upper longitudinal edge of both the first anchoring wing and the second anchoring wing in the vicinity of the fastener openings.